

• WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA

JULY 2006 | \$2.50

Special Edition:

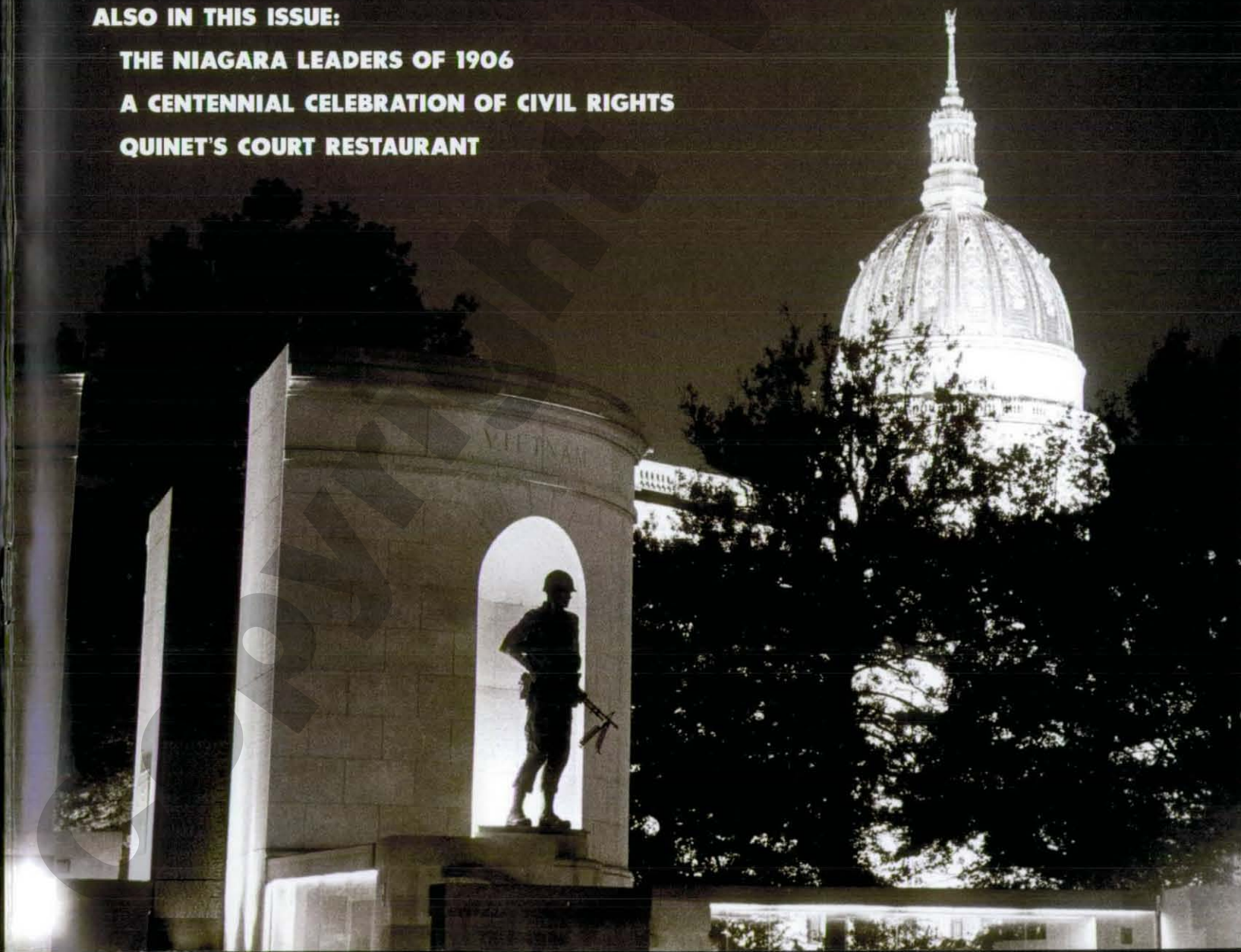
HONORING WEST VIRGINIA'S SOLDIERS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

THE NIAGARA LEADERS OF 1906

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

QUINET'S COURT RESTAURANT



Where Yesterday Meets Tomorrow



Come and enjoy the "Granddaddy" of all Fairs while celebrating the heritage of the Appalachians!

The Mountain State Art & Craft Fair is one of West Virginia's oldest heritage events. For four days 140 of the "best of the best" in artists and craftspeople will demonstrate their talent and showcase their creations in one of West Virginia's most scenic locations: Cedar Lakes, West Virginia.

You'll be able to buy one-of-a-kind handcrafted jewelry, inspired paintings, unique decorative and functional pottery plus high-quality wearables and the finest woodworkers anywhere. Premium handmade musical instruments, fishing lures, toys and handwoven baskets are also on the "must see" list.

Our Heritage Village is new this year. Visitors will see lye soap and brooms being made, in addition to rug hooking, lacemaking & bobbin turning demonstrations. Paper marbling, shingle splitting, applebutter making, and quilting are sure to spark your interest while our WV grown specialty foods will tickle your taste buds.

Also new this year is our Children's Activities Center. Youngsters can use their imaginations, make memories, and take home mementos of the grandest heritage event in West Virginia... where yesterday meets tomorrow!



Joe Manchin III
Governor, State of West Virginia

L. Thomas Bulla
Secretary, Dept. of Commerce

Frank Jezioro
Director, Division of Natural Resources

Emily J. Fleming
Assistant to the Director / Legislative Liaison

Wonderful West Virginia Editorial Staff

Sheila McEntee
Editor

Lucia H. Robinson
Art Director / Contributing Editor

Loni Benfield
Intern

Wonderful West Virginia Administrative Staff

Harry F. Price
Publisher

Michael Bryant
Business Manager

Robert L. Wines
Creative Services

Donna Flowers
Circulation

Commissioners

Jeffrey S. Bowers, *Sugar Grove*

James C. Smith, *Elkview*

David M. Milne, *Bruceton Mills*

Gus C. Svokas, *Weirton*

Twila S. Metheney, *Morgantown*

Kenneth R. Wilson, *Chapmanville*

Jan E. Riffe, *Dawson*

Section Chiefs

Harry F. Price, *Administration*

Curtis I. Taylor, *Wildlife Resources*

John M. Withers, *Real Estate Management*

Kenneth Caplinger, *Acting Chief, Parks and Recreation*

Public Information Officer

Hoy R. Murphy

Layout & Design

Lucia H. Robinson,
Cannon Graphics, Inc.
Charleston, West Virginia

Printed By

Chapman Printing Company
Charleston, Huntington, and
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Wonderful West Virginia (USPS-415-660; ISSN 0030-7157) is published monthly by the State of West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Periodical postage paid at Charleston, WV. **Post Master:** Send changes to **Wonderful West Virginia**, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305-0669.

Subscription Rates: Domestic: 1-year \$17.00, 2-year \$34.00; Foreign Subscriptions: \$30.00; Newsstand Single Copy: \$2.50, Call (304) 558-8866, or 1-800-CALL-WVA. Address all editorial correspondence to the editor. Viewpoints of our authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Copyright 2006 by State of West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Although reasonable care is taken, the editor and the Division of Natural Resources assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services, and programs to all persons without regard to sex, race, color, age, religion, national origin, or handicap. Proper licenses/registration and compliance with official rules and regulations are the only source of restrictions for facility use or program participation. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer. Discrimination complaints should be directed to: Director, WV Division of Natural Resources, Capitol Complex, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0669. **Wonderful West Virginia** is a copyrighted publication and may not be copied or reproduced in whole or in part without the express written consent of the editor.

To subscribe call 1-800-CALL-WVA

www.wonderfulwv.com



This magazine is printed
on recycled paper.



West Virginia Division
of Natural Resources
www.wvdnr.gov

Front Cover: West Virginia
Veterans Memorial
By Betty Rivard



WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA

JULY 2006 Volume 70, Number 7



4

1st. Lt. James McCormick

By Steven Wayne Rotsch

7

Sp. Sarah Gilbert

By Nora Shalaway

10

Sgt. Bobby Leonhard

By Tim Wimer

13

Tech. Sgt. Jason Harris

By David Kisamore

20

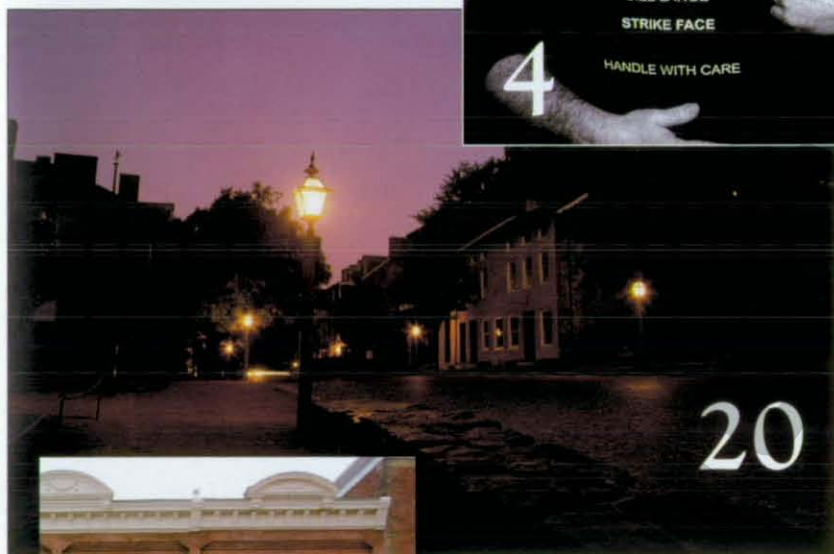
Niagara Leaders of 1906

By Marsha Wassel

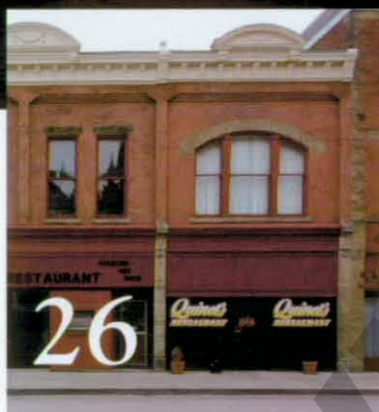
26

Quinet's Court Restaurant

By Cody Corliss

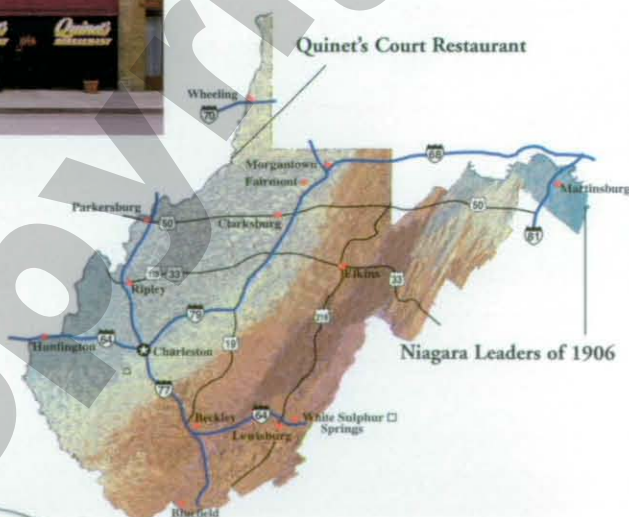


20



26

Quinet's Court Restaurant



Niagara Leaders of 1906

West Virginia
Wild and Wonderful

In Every Issue

16 Photo Gallery

30 Statewide Events

32 West Virginia Bookshelf



West Virginia State Capitol
Arnout Hyde Jr.

COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

A Special Tribute

Last spring marked the third anniversary of our country's involvement in the war in Iraq. At this writing, more than 2,600 U.S. soldiers have lost their lives in the fight to bring democracy to both Iraq and Afghanistan. While feelings run deep and opinions vary widely among U.S. citizens about our country's involvement in the Middle East, we are united in our respect, admiration, and support for the soldiers who have valiantly volunteered to serve our country and preserve the ideals America exemplifies.

This month, as we celebrate our own nation's struggle to win freedom some 230 years ago, we are pleased to present the experiences of four U.S. soldiers from West Virginia who served in the war in Iraq. Though their military positions were very different, a common thread of courage, commitment, perseverance in the face of personal hardship, and self-discovery binds their stories.

While 1st Lt. James McCormick of Culloden suffered repeated wounds in battle, Spc. Sarah Gilbert of Cameron and now Wheeling, trained as an automated logistics specialist, was called upon to help heal her fellow soldiers both physically and spiritually. Morgantown resident Sgt. Bobby Leonhard's love for an Iraqi family ultimately changed his life direction. And, through his contributions to numerous missions around the globe, Tech. Sgt. Jason Harris of the Eastern Panhandle, who was initially stirred to military service by the untimely death of a beloved brother, discovered a personal philosophy to guide his future.

The staff of *Wonderful West Virginia* wishes to thank these soldiers for allowing us to share small glimpses of their powerful stories. On behalf of readers nationwide, we express our deep gratitude for their sacrifice and dedication, and for that of all veterans and soldiers serving our country today.

— Sheila McEntee

Living by the Code of Honor

1st Lt. James McCormick

Text and photographs by Steven Wayne Rotsch

Sitting in the kitchen of his home in Culloden, West Virginia, with his new bride, Heather, James McCormick is a world away from the war in Iraq. This decorated veteran of two Iraqi wars admits he is one lucky soldier. He's a brave one too. He never says that, but the army does.

The 1986 Winfield High School graduate was shot in both legs and in his left hand in three separate battles in two different wars. Despite these injuries, each time he continued fighting. He admits that the wounds are still not totally healed and that parts of his left hand are numb.

During his military service, the 38-year-old McCormick earned numerous awards for his bravery. In addition to these, he has been recommended for a Silver Star for his actions during a battle at the Baghdad International Airport on Easter Sunday 2004.

The father of four—Kyle, Mason, Katie, and Jimmy—and the stepfather of two—Rebecca and Mason—McCormick was a scout platoon squad leader with the 24th Infantry Division, 218th Infantry, during the first Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm.

On Feb. 26, 1991, then Sgt. E-5 McCormick was in the battle to take over the Tallil Airbase near An Nasyria, Iraq. The wide-ranging battle raged over several square miles, and his unit of scouts took fire from three enemy positions, each about 120 feet apart, on a berm.

"It was hot and I was in a flak vest and a chemical suit," McCormick remembered. The battle started at 10:30 in the morning and lasted until 3:00 the next morning. Early in the battle he was shot. "I knew I was hit," McCormick said. "I stuck my finger in the wound and thought, 'It's not that bad.'" He had been hit in the left calf by a 9mm

bullet. He taped it up and kept fighting.

He and another soldier worked their way to within 30 feet of the enemy's position on the left flank while the rest of his team kept the enemy's attention with cover fire. McCormick threw a grenade into the enemy foxhole. "It jarred your jaws," he said, remembering the blast.

By taking the first position, the remaining two Iraqi positions were caught in the team's crossfire. McCormick and his buddy moved into the second hole after a heavy gun battle. Then McCormick did something even he doesn't quite understand. "I got up out of the hole and I charged," McCormick said. He



The many medals awarded 1st Lt. James McCormick for his service in both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom

stormed the third position, firing at the men in the hole and engaging one in hand-to-hand combat. "Our rifles clunked," McCormick said. "You don't have time to be scared," he added. "I was more scared of failing my men."

After the battle, McCormick walked to an aid station and a physician's assistant (P.A.) removed the bullet. The P.A., a Vietnam vet, didn't have much of a bedside manner. "He handed it [the bullet] to me and gave me paperwork for the Purple Heart," McCormick said. "He gave me Motrin for the pain. Then he asked how I had gotten there. When I told him I had walked in, the P.A. told me, 'Well, walk your a** back to your unit.'" McCormick won the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with Valor.

Now fast forward 13 years to 2004. McCormick was living in Dayton, Ohio, and serving as a second lieutenant in the Ohio Army National Guard. The second Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, was under way, and the National Guard was looking for company commanders and platoon leaders for gun truck units to protect supply convoys. McCormick volunteered. He was turned down twice, but the third time proved to be the charm. He was stationed at Camp Navistar in Kuwait with the 1487th Transportation Unit.

McCormick served as a platoon leader of convoy gun truck escorts in the 518th Combat Gun Truck Company, a provisional unit that operated where needed in Kuwait and Iraq. Since a gun truck's job is to draw fire away from the convoy trucks, McCormick's crew painted their armorless HMMWV (Humvee) in black and white stripes. They nicknamed it "Zebra."

On March 22, 2004, McCormick was protecting a 70-truck convoy, spread out over eight miles, when it was ambushed. The convoy started taking fire from a bridge and McCormick decided to drive up on the bridge. "They like to attack from overpasses and bridges," he explained. "We pulled up onto the bridge and got out of the Humvee to return fire. An AK-47 round ricocheted off something and dropped me to my knees."

A bullet had lodged in his right leg. "I'm on the radio," McCormick said, "and they heard the whole thing." With the radio on, McCormick said to no one in particular, "I'm done. They're gonna send me home." But he kept fighting. After an intense 15-minute firefight, the battle was won.

McCormick was brought to the Marine Corps base and attended by a Navy doctor. "I told him, 'I'm really hurt,'" McCormick said. "The doctor cleaned the wound, dug out the bullet, and handed it to me. Then he handed me the paperwork for the Purple Heart. I walked back to my unit."

After that battle, McCormick decided that more fire-

power would be advantageous, so he had a 50-caliber machine gun mounted on top of his Humvee. The new gun gave him more firepower, but it also left him exposed on top of the vehicle.

On April 8, 2004, just two weeks after being shot in the leg, McCormick was protecting a 44-vehicle convoy making the eight-hour supply run from Camp Navistar in Kuwait to Baghdad when the middle of the convoy was attacked. He saw three carloads of insurgents driving up and down the convoy, firing at it. "You could hear them screaming 'Allah, Achbar!,' which means God is great," he said.

Almost immediately after taking up his position on top of the Humvee, manning the 50-caliber machine gun, McCormick took an AK-47 round in his left hand. Despite his mangled hand, he continued firing. Another round hit him in the chest, gouging a hole in his SAPI (small arms protection inserts), the chest plate in his bulletproof vest. (He kept the SAPI plate as a souvenir.)

What McCormick didn't realize at the time was that the bullet that hit his hand had also cut the gun's ammunition belt. As he tried to reload the machine gun with one hand, he saw two armed men, dressed in black, running at him. He dropped the ammo can and, fumbling for the first weapon he could find, shot a flare at them. The flare started foliage burning around them, and the two assailants turned to run. McCormick shot them with his M-16.

Bullets were flying so fast and furiously "it sounded like bees going past your head," McCormick said. By now, the last truck of the convoy had passed by and McCormick's crew, as well as that of another Humvee, were alone. The crews were unharmed, save for McCormick's radio operator, who had been shot in the leg.

Forty-five minutes after the ambush began, there was still a small group of insurgent fighters engaged in the battle. McCormick fired on a blue car that sped by shooting at them, just as the army's quick response team arrived. This team helped tow the Zebra into the Baghdad airport, which was less than a mile away.

At the hospital, much to McCormick's surprise, a nurse ordered him to take his pants off, though his injury was in his hand. She had noticed something he hadn't. McCormick had a black streak along the side of his leg near his knee—powder burns from a bullet that put a hole through his pants. He'd been shot in the hand and in the chest, and a bullet had grazed his knee.

"You want to talk about a spiritual awakening," McCormick said. He won the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with Valor for his part in that battle.

"That battle was the beginning of 19 days of constant

battle," said McCormick. He admits he and his crew became adrenaline junkies. "We'd listen to the radio, looking for a fight," he said. But sometimes the fight came to him.

Such was the case on Easter Sunday 2004, just two days after McCormick was shot in the hand. The Baghdad International Airport was attacked by small arms and mortar fire. McCormick's team took a position on a ramp overlooking the perimeter wall near a guard tower. He watched as more than 40 insurgents assaulted the wall near their position. The guard tower was taken down. He opened fire with his 50-caliber machine gun. During this short, intense battle, his Humvee was hit 14 times. His driver was injured by shattered glass when several rounds hit the Zebra's windshield.

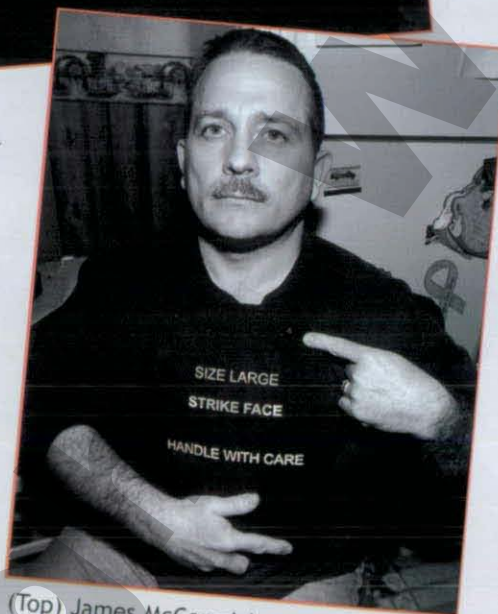
"According to the truck drivers who witnessed it, the gun trucks beat back a determined enemy attack," said U.S. Army Transportation Corps historian Richard Killblane. "The story of the gun trucks on the ramp circulated among the truck drivers and became legend. In the context of the fighting that continued across the Suni Triangle around them, few paid any attention to this fight."

Yet the gun truck crews had stopped the insurgents from overrunning the camp. McCormick has been recommended for the Silver Star for his part in the defense of the Baghdad airport that day.

During his time in Iraq, from April to September 2004, McCormick took part in 170 missions. Once home, he sent President Bush an e-mail saying, if needed, he and other soldiers would return to continue the mission. "It's a just and much needed fight," he told the president. "Please know that many of us still live by the code of honor that so many soldiers before us had, from Bunker Hill to Baghdad." Later, he was surprised to find out that the president wanted to meet with him personally.



(Top) James McCormick at home in Culloden with his wife, Heather



(Bottom) McCormick displays the chest plate that saved his life.

McCormick said his greatest honor was meeting privately for 10 minutes with President Bush when the president visited Morgantown in July 2005. The president also quoted McCormick's e-mail in the speech he delivered that day. But he was perhaps most proud that his sons Kyle and Mason accompanied him to the event.

"How's it going, McCormick?" was how the president greeted him. McCormick had his photo taken with the president, and the president gave him a Presidential coin. McCormick gave the president patches from the 1487th Transportation Unit and the 518th Gun Truck Company.

The president then asked everyone else to leave the room and listened as 1st Lt. James McCormick gave his observations about the military and the Iraq War. The president told him, "I really appreciate what you've done for this country."

Today McCormick is an on-site supervisor for CRST—a transportation company based in Ashland, Kentucky. Although he is still involved with transportation, "I definitely don't get shot at," he said. In addition, he is still a member of the Ohio Army National Guard. A dedicated soldier, McCormick said that, if needed, he would answer the call and serve in Iraq again.

Steven Wayne Rotsch is an award-winning photographer who has worked as a photojournalist for a number of news organizations, including the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and the Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram. He is currently the personal photographer of Governor Joe Manchin III. He is also the owner of Positive Image Photography. His Web site is www.stevenrotsch.com.

"Women Need to Learn How Strong They Can Be"

Spc. Sarah Gilbert

By Nora Shalaway

There are certain events from my years at Cameron High School in Marshall County that I remember so vividly, it's as if they happened five minutes ago. One such incident occurred in 2001, during my senior year. My friend Sarah Gilbert was late for class, so all eyes were focused on her as she entered the room. She was beaming with the look of someone with news to tell. "Guess what?" she asked us, smiling as she slipped into her usual chair. "What?" we inquired unanimously. "I joined the Army Reserves," she announced.

"What?" I repeated, slightly taken aback and feeling a little nervous for her. My free-spirited, peaceful friend was entering the military?

"Yeah, I'm going to be a soldier," she replied. "I've wanted to, and it will help pay for college. Besides, it's not like we're going to go to war anytime soon."

We all laughed and agreed, and my anxiety slowly melted. "She's right," I thought. "She'll be safe. She won't have to do anything dangerous."

A couple of months ago, Sarah and I laughed about this high school moment again, but not for the same reason we did five years ago. We laughed because of its irony, our naiveté, and the funny way life works out.

As Specialist Sarah Gilbert (probably Sergeant Sarah Gilbert by the time this is published), my friend has certainly seen her share of danger while doing her job. In a recent telephone conversation,

I learned a great deal about her duties and experiences as a soldier.

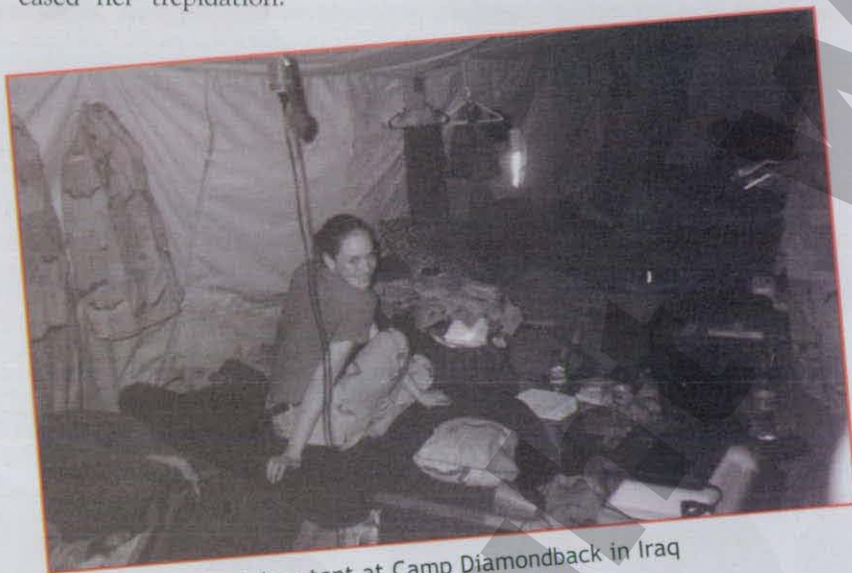
The first thing I learned was that Sarah had had another motivation for joining the army besides going to college. Her grandfather, Gordon Reed, who passed away our senior year in high school, was a WWII hero who had been decorated with the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for saving his platoon from an attack. He had often told Sarah how proud he was to be in the army, and his stories sparked her interest. She, too, was proud of her grandfather and saw him as a role model. "His grandsons were all vegetarian hippies," she joked, "so I thought I could follow in his footsteps."



Spc. Sarah Gilbert of Wheeling

On October 21, 2001, upon joining the 463rd Engineer Battalion, stationed in Wheeling, West Virginia, Sarah became a 92A—an automated logistics specialist. “I basically used computers to keep track of supplies and weapons,” she explained to me. Because her job was in high demand, in July 2004, she was transferred to the 814th Quartermaster Company, stationed in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The next month, her unit was deployed to Mosul, Iraq, to take over for another unit and provide supplies for infantry units.

“At first I was scared,” Sarah told me, “but we heard about going [to Iraq] all the time, so you’re kind of prepared for it and are just waiting for it to happen. When I found out I was leaving, I spent every minute I could with my family and got my personal affairs in order.” Though she was initially afraid, Sarah found that her training eased her trepidation.



Spc. Sarah Gilbert in a tent at Camp Diamondback in Iraq

“The more training we did and the more I got to know the people I was going with, the more comfortable I was,” she said. “You just get mission focused.”

Sarah was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, 23 years ago and moved with her family to Cameron, West Virginia, when she was nine years old. She has lived in the Mountain State ever since. She claims living in West Virginia helped prepare her for military life. “Most people in West Virginia are outdoor-wise,” she said. “You learn a lot about camping and hunting, and how to get by without a hotel room. You need that in the military.” As she described them, the living spaces at Camp Diamondback in Iraq were not at all like hotel rooms. For most of Sarah’s time in Iraq, the camps consisted of large tents. After eight months, the troops moved into the buildings

of the Iraqi camp they had taken over, but these, Sarah said, could not be described as comfortable.

Although Sarah was sent to Iraq as an automated logistics specialist, the camp was in desperate need of a 56M, or chaplain’s assistant, and she was nominated for the position. When I asked her how she felt about the job switch, she didn’t hesitate in her response. “I’m so thankful for that job because it allowed me to perform a really humanitarian role, and I feel like I made a real difference,” she said. Her new job encompassed an incredible range of responsibilities. Serving under Chaplain Jay Clark, she was charged with knowing numerous religions, such as Catholicism, Buddhism, and Protestantism. She also learned Iraqi prayers for when she was assigned to help Iraqi children. By praying with fatally wounded soldiers and holding memorial services for fallen members of the unit, she helped others deal with loss and suffering.

A particularly powerful moment came during a memorial service held after an infantry unit lost four soldiers in a convoy attack. “I sang ‘Amazing Grace’ during the service,” Sarah said, “and in the middle of the song, I looked up and saw 15 grown men weeping. At the end of the song, they all stood up and quoted lines from the movie *Band of Brothers*.”

To help relieve the continual stress her comrades endured, Sarah learned yoga from a physical therapist and held biweekly classes for soldiers. “You have no means of getting rid of stress over there, so taking 45 minutes to meditate and calm down helped the soldiers a lot,” she explained. She tried to provide as many positive outlets for stress as possible to prevent soldiers from becoming depressed or using negative outlets like alcohol. “But sometimes people would just snap,” Sarah said.

In addition to offering psychological and religious support to the troops, Sarah consistently interacted with the people of Mosul and was one of the few women to enter the city. She helped deliver much-needed provisions to the Iraqi civilians. “Corporations in America sent supplies,” she explained, “and we took them to schools and orphanages.” During these trips to town, she met many Iraqi families, and she assured me that the majority of them welcomed her. “They’d all want to hug me and thank me, even when I didn’t have supplies with me,” she said. Her translator informed her that the people called her an “angel.”

Her constant interaction with civilians allowed her to

develop significant connections with some of them. After a mosque was bombed, Sarah was assigned to a five-year-old girl named Susae. "She had just seen her entire family blown up and she was going to an orphanage," Sarah told me. "I was with her for three days, and we formed a really close bond. I think about her almost every time I think about Iraq, and I send her letters that her teacher translates for her."

Sarah also went to Mosul with Chaplain Clark to meet with the city's religious leaders, in an effort to establish peaceable relations with the Iraqis. "We had our religious differences," she admitted, "but we all had the common goal of bringing peace to the city."

Despite desires for peace, bombings continually threatened the city and camps, and Sarah's convoy was often attacked. When the number of injuries overwhelmed medical staff, Sarah's job required her to give medical assistance. On her second day as a chaplain assistant, the Marez bombing occurred. Since Marez is located only about five miles from Camp Diamondback and doesn't have a hospital, the injured soldiers came to the one where Sarah was working. The medical workers were so short staffed, Sarah explained, that she was called on to help. She assisted for about 24 hours straight and administered some 50 IVs. "It was the worst thing I've ever seen," she said, recalling the gory incident, "but I kept a very level head and didn't get upset. I was focused." When I asked her how she was able to keep her composure, she explained that it was her job to be focused. "It hits you when you stop working," she acknowledged. "When you're alone and you process everything, that's when you can be human."

Her camp was also besieged by mortar attacks. One hour-long attack brought 23 rounds of mortar shells, which, Sarah explained, are missile-like weapons that hit the ground, pop up, and explode. "You couldn't see where they were going to land," she said about the mortars in this attack. "People were running everywhere because the bunkers were so far apart. I had to run to the hospital when something like that happened, so I ran for about four miles and didn't know if I was going to make it." She did make it, though, and continued administering to those less fortunate.

After exactly a year, Sarah left Iraq on September 15, 2005, returned to West Virginia, and transferred back to the 463rd Engineer Battalion. She told me she couldn't wait to leave Iraq and get back to her family, all of whom she now sees regularly. Still, she felt a strange sadness leaving Iraq. "There's simplicity to that life," she explained. "The military is like your family, and you all have the same mission in life for a year. You're not deal-

ing with regular, everyday stresses like bills. Plus, I miss helping people." Sarah explained that she had difficulty reorienting herself to civilian life at first, but, nevertheless, she's glad to be home.

Sarah told me that if she had to do it over again, she'd still join the military. Her training and experiences in Iraq, she said, made her a much stronger person. They enabled her to know how far she could be pushed and helped her push herself even further. "The military lets you know what you're made of," she said. "I'm tougher now, but I'm also more compassionate. I understand human pain because I know what real pain looks like."

As part of a group composed of many more men than women, Sarah said she also feels like a role model for women. "Before I joined the army I was kind of a 'wuss,'" she laughed. "I think a lot of women need to learn how strong they can be. Because you have to hide your emotions in the military, you lead a very masculine lifestyle. You can't talk about how scary it is, how sad it is, or how tired you are. You have to be tough."

Sarah felt prepared for this lifestyle, though, thanks to her brothers. Although she is closest to her twin sister, Jessica, Sarah also has close relationships with her older brother Alex and her younger brother Ben. "In order to have a comradery with male siblings, you have to be able to talk with them and hide your emotional side, so I was prepared," she said. She added that the military prepared her well during basic training too.

I could have talked to Sarah about her military service for hours, but she had limited time because of the busy schedule she keeps. Since she's been home from Iraq, she has moved to Wheeling and become the manager of three bands, including her brother Ben's band, Amber. A drummer herself, she also scouts bands for the live, weekend entertainment at Yesterdays, a new club in Wheeling. In addition, she is pursuing a modeling career in Pittsburgh and teaching yoga. Sarah has one more year in the military, during which she will serve one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. She is already thinking about life after her term of service is complete. "I'm ready to realize my potential in other ways," she said. Her numerous jobs attest to that intention.

And while Sarah's military service has given her an expanded view of life and the world, she wants to stay in West Virginia. After her tour of duty, for Sarah, the phrase "Almost Heaven" has never felt more true.

A graduate of Cameron High School and Marshall University, Nora Shalaway is pursuing a master's degree in literature at American University in Washington, DC.

A Passion for Helping Others

Sgt. Bobby Leonhard

By Tim Wimer

If you saw President Bush's Independence Day speech that was televised from Morgantown in July 2005, you may have seen Sgt. Bobby Leonhard. That's because this 25-year-old West Virginia National Guard soldier was on the stage, sitting beside the president. "It was very exciting," Bobby says. "I had the honor of shaking President Bush's hand twice."

Bobby's wife, Leann, recalls her surprise and excitement about the event: "Bobby called me at work and asked me if I would like to go see the president. 'The president of what?' I asked. Bobby got our tickets, and the next day, when we arrived at the event, Bobby and his father were invited to the stage as part of a father-and-son veteran duo."

While growing up, Bobby was no stranger to military life. His father, Bob Leonhard Sr., was a career Army soldier who retired as a lieutenant colonel.

"Bobby was an army brat," Bob Sr. explains. "He's lived all over the place, from Georgia to Germany. I was transferred to Morgantown in 1998 to command the ROTC program at West Virginia University. Bobby was 18 and attended Morgantown High School."

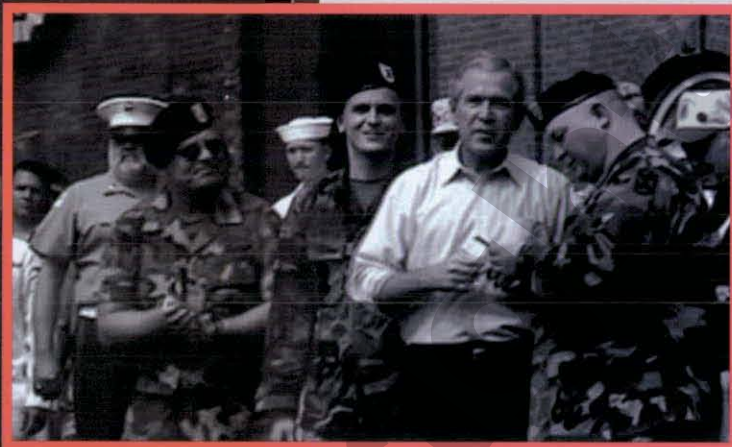
Conversing via e-mail from Kuwait, where he is currently working, Bobby fondly recalled his time in Morgantown, saying, "When I think of West Virginia, I think of the convivial atmosphere of WVU. I think of how wonderful it was to be so carefree."

When Bobby graduated from high school in 1999, he decided to study drama at WVU and to pay his own way. "I needed to find a way to pay for college without going into debt," he explains, "so I enlisted in the West Virginia National Guard." At the time, there was no war and little talk of terrorism.

Bobby's father was proud of his son's enlistment. "Bobby undertook the challenge to serve his country and West Virginia," says Bob Sr. "and he took advantage of the tuition assistance the military provided."

Bobby participated in military drills on weekends while studying acting at WVU. At the university he met Leann, another acting student, who would become his wife several years later. He graduated from WVU in 2003.

"After college, Bobby planned to go to Los Angeles for his shot at fame," Leann explains. But in January 2004, everything changed. Bobby received the call that his unit was being deployed to Iraq. As a member of a field artillery unit,



Sgt. Bobby Leonhard stands to President Bush's right.

Bobby never thought he would be sent to fight in Iraq. It was not the type of fighting his unit had been trained to do. But, his father says, "He never once complained about it or tried to get out of it. He was determined to go over there and do right."

Bobby spent over a year in Iraq, escorting and protecting military convoys through the streets of An Nasiryah. He commanded a Humvee gun truck and was often fired on by terrorist groups. His mission was to pursue the attackers, and most of his training was received on the job.

"My proudest moment in Iraq was when I led an assault on a gang of hijackers who were terrorizing the local town," Bobby explains. "When the battle was done, the villagers were thanking us with tears of relief in their eyes."

When Bobby's enlistment ended in 2005, he returned to Morgantown a different person, he says—a more passionate person with a need to help others. He regretted leaving military service while his "brothers-in-arms" were still serving.

Thus, in February 2006, Bobby journeyed to Kuwait to work for Combat Support Associates, an organization that serves the military by maintaining

equipment, conducting training, and providing recreation. He currently works in the Department of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, supervising a gymnasium and organizing recreational events, such as basketball tournaments, to keep soldiers' spirits high. "This is one last thing he wanted to do for his fellow soldiers," Leann explains. "It is important to him."

Leann has definitely seen a new side of her husband since he returned from Iraq. "He's a completely different person now," she explains. "I have seen him mature. He went from being a guy who just graduated college—not really knowing or caring about what he would do with his life—to being a guy who proposed to me a month after he returned. He became very serious about everything he was interested in. He began to see the importance of his family, education, and career."

Bobby's more serious attitude about life is partly due to the love he developed for one particular Iraqi family. While he delivered food to many poor families who lived in mud huts along his route, "the children in this family seemed different," he explains. "They were more concerned with playing with us, instead of just begging for what we had."



Sgt. Bobby Leonhard poses with Iraqi children.



Sgt. Bobby Leonhard's play *Infidel* debuted in Chicago in 2005.

Bobby felt a connection with the family and began to visit them regularly. The five children, Dahaa, Shama, Ali, Hussin, and Bebe, always looked forward to his visits. To them, he was much more than an American serviceman who delivered food; he became part of their family.

Being with the family was a comfort to Bobby too. "Dahaa, the 12-year-old daughter, was an Arabic version of my little sister, Molly," he says. He would often bring the family gifts and, although they were extremely poor, the family would always find something to give him in return.

During one visit to the family, a fellow soldier took a photograph of Bobby with the five children. He printed a copy and gave it to the children. "One of the biggest honors of my life was walking into their one-room adobe house and seeing a picture of me hanging on the wall," Bobby recalls.

"I still worry about them and miss them terribly," he adds. "It's difficult to watch the news and hear stories about children in Iraq being blown up or shot. I try to place my thoughts elsewhere."

Leann understands her husband's attachment to his adopted family. "He often talks about how he wishes he could adopt the children and give them a better life in America," she says. "If it is ever possible, we would like to return to Iraq to visit them." Leann adds that Bobby is currently studying Arabic so he will be able to communicate with them in the event of a reunion.

Bobby's experiences with his adopted Iraqi family even inspired him to choose a new career path. In fact, Leann explains, those experiences are "the basis for everything Bobby does now. When he

returned from Iraq, he was more interested in helping people. He began to see his acting dreams as a selfish pursuit, and he decided that he could make more of a difference with his life by becoming a lawyer and fighting for justice for others." Bobby will return to America this summer and begin law school at the University of Pittsburgh in late August.

Still, even with his new career goals, Bobby has kept a hand in theater. In 2005, he wrote a play titled *Infidel* that was performed at Outside the Lines, a theatrical production company in Chicago he founded with three of his classmates from WVU. The play is about the experiences of three soldiers who patrol the streets of Iraq aboard a gun truck. The theme of *Infidel* is that people change after they see combat. They begin to see a completely different side of themselves. This is something Bobby learned about firsthand. Writing the script proved to be therapeutic for him, providing a way to deal with his experiences in Iraq.

Bobby's father points out that his son's military service developed his character and enriched his life, and prepared him well for the future. "When he came home [from Iraq], he brought very strong memories of the people and understood the importance of helping them," Bob Sr. said. "I think he will do well at law school."

Tim Wimer is a freelance writer and high school English teacher in Botetourt County, Virginia. He is also a veteran of the army's 82nd Airborne Division, serving as an infantry paratrooper from 1986-1989.

Hardship and Opportunity

Tech. Sgt. Jason Harris

Text and photographs by David Kisamore

As a student at Shepherd College (now Shepherd University) in the 1990s, Jason Harris dreamed of going into politics and becoming an actor. As a child he had idolized President Ronald Reagan and had hoped to walk in his footsteps one day. Though Harris has not yet made it to the White House, he is an accomplished theatrical performer, and his service to his country has taken him around the world.

Born in Augsburg, Germany, to parents who both served in army intelligence, Harris is the oldest of five children. His parents divorced when he was 12 years old, and when he was 16, he moved with his father from a suburb of Washington, DC, to the quiet, rural community of Shannondale near Harpers Ferry. Harris graduated from Jefferson High School; attended Shepherd for a time; then, wanting a larger academic environment, returned to old haunts to attend the

University of Maryland. Once there, however, he discovered that he was no longer a "city boy." Harris missed the smaller, friendly culture of the Mountain State, he says, and, before long, moved back to Jefferson County.

Settling into an apartment there, he took a job waiting tables at the Golden Corral and dabbled in local theater, landing a leading role in a production of *Oh, Wilderness*. It was during this transitional time, when Harris was considering his life direction, that he received the news of the sudden death of his brother Ryan from a rare heart disease. Ryan was just a year younger than Harris and the two had been very close. Ryan's death devastated Harris, and he began to think more deeply about the meaning of his own life and how he wanted to spend it.

Fortunately, he had the support of caring friends during this time. While his boss at the Golden Corral, John Hendrix, encouraged him to go back to school, another friend at work suggested a different route to self-discovery: join the Air National Guard. Having grown up in a military family, this idea was not unfamiliar to Harris. But his friend's suggestion was well timed, and soon he was signed up with the 167th Air National Guard in Martinsburg, West Virginia, just 30 miles from his home.

After taking the required tests, Harris discovered that he was eligible for many jobs in the Air National Guard. He asked to be a pilot but found that he had not attended enough college and that pilots were selected by a board. The recruiting office recommended that if he wanted to be a pilot, he should train for an avion-



Tech. Sgt. Jason Harris outside his home in the Eastern Panhandle

ics position. This required the regular six weeks of basic training and an additional 18 months of specialized training. Through this training Harris learned how to maintain and troubleshoot an aircraft's autopilot system, instrumentation, and control systems. The course was rigorous—indeed, it had a 60 percent or better drop-out rate. Harris, however, graduated from the avionics school with honors.

After this training, Harris returned to the 167th at Martinsburg. While there, he gained a greater knowledge of the C130 Hercules aircraft. He also decided to go back to college, but not to a small one like Shepherd or an enormous one like the University of Maryland. He decided that West Virginia University was a good fit, and so, for the spring semester of 1999, he packed his bags for Morgantown to pursue a degree in acting.

Though Harris became a WVU Mountaineer, he continued his regular weekend and summer duty with the Guard. During this

granted his request for an extension. He stayed a full 160 days in Germany before going back to college. He was the first E3 in his shop ever to be gone that long on a mission.

Harris volunteered for several more missions before he finished his degree. He went to Germany multiple times and to Japan. While traveling the world and learning as much as he could about working on airplanes, he was also involved in drama at WVU, working at a local Western Sizzlin', and courting a beautiful young woman named Diana, whom he met while working at the restaurant.

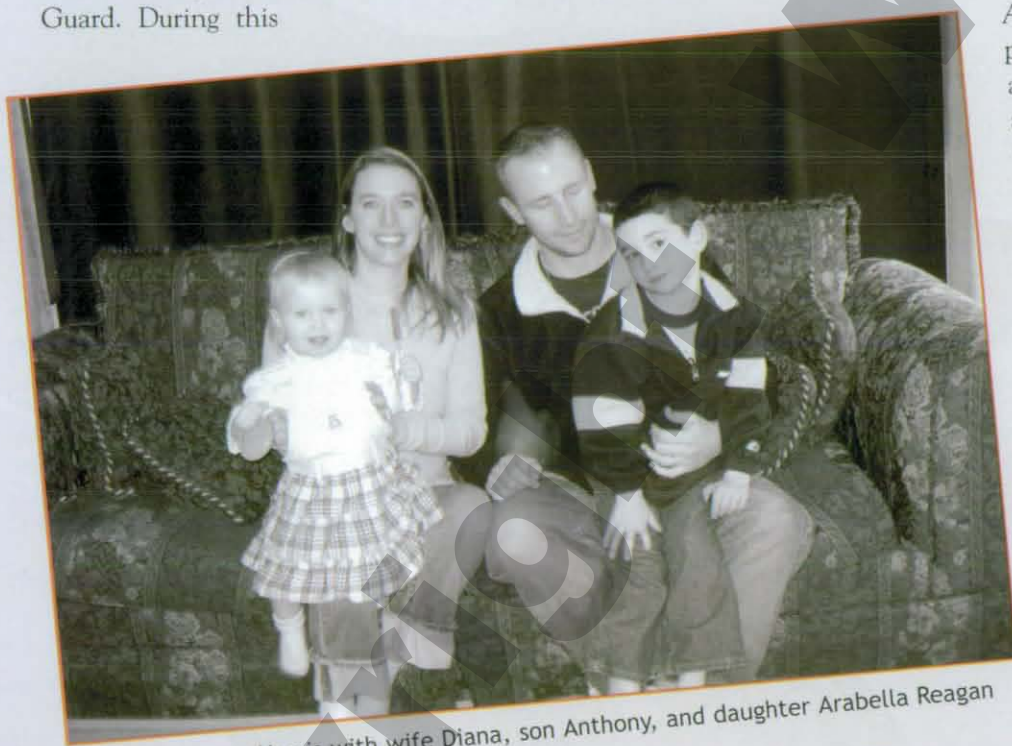
Life was full and things were going quite well for Harris when the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks happened on September 11, 2001. Harris knew it would not be long before he would have to leave home to serve his country. The tragedy eliminated any hesitation Harris and Diana had in their relationship; they were married two days before he was deployed to Germany to

support "Operation Joint Forge" in Afghanistan. Harris later supported operations in Doha, Qatar, at Camp Snoopy; at the Al Udeid air force base, also located in Qatar; and on Masirah Island off the coast of Oman.

When he first toured downtown Doha, Harris was startled by the vast difference in culture, including the traditional Arab dress worn by the majority of citizens. Though he initially sensed that the people felt tense about the presence of Americans, he was later relieved to find that they welcomed him. Harris also noticed that the people of Doha had adopted many aspects of American culture. He discovered a pizza place, shopping malls, and even an

Applebee's restaurant. He also observed a group of Qatari teenagers wearing baseball caps and other American garb. It appeared, he said, that many of the pleasures and liberties that Americans enjoy were slowly making their way into the Middle East.

After war broke out in Afghanistan, Harris and the other members of his unit were restricted to the Al Udeid air force base, where they were stationed. "We had to dig in and shut down," he said. He and the other soldiers who repaired and readied aircraft for operation approached their responsibility with pride and determination, he said.



Tech. Sgt. Jason Harris with wife Diana, son Anthony, and daughter Arabella Reagan

time, he also volunteered for several overseas support missions. As an E3, an apprentice position in the military, he served his first mission in Panama. He was later stationed in Ramstein, Germany, as a volunteer for a two-week relief mission in Bosnia called "Shining Hope." Harris was allowed to go on this mission under the condition that he work alongside a more experienced soldier. Harris proved to be a quick study. In fact, the people he worked with were so impressed with him and his willingness to work that they

Every soldier focused on the mission and did whatever was required.

While serving overseas, Harris and the other members of his Air National Guard unit never forgot their West Virginia roots. They hung a banner outside their tents that read "167 Mountaineer Pride Worldwide." Indeed, there were many moments—some especially difficult—when Harris longed to be home with Diana and his family. After the birth of a healthy son, Anthony, the couple's second child, a daughter named Alexa Ryan, was stillborn. Though Harris was home for her birth, within a few months, he was deployed back to Masirah Island. Diana subsequently suffered two miscarriages, both while Harris was overseas. Fortunately, the family's sadness has a happy ending. On January 12, 2005, a healthy baby girl, Arabella Reagan, was born to great rejoicing at the Harris home.

Harris is still working full time at the 167th in Martinsburg, and his dream of flying is about to come true. He will soon begin pilot school, during which he will learn to fly the C5, the largest cargo plane used by the U.S. Air Force.

Harris said that when he returns to civilian life, he wants to write screenplays as well as enter the world of politics. He would like one day be a U.S. senator representing West Virginia. In that capacity he hopes to help keep West Virginia wild and wonderful and improve education in the state.

As a U.S. soldier, Tech. Sgt. Jason Harris has endured personal hardship, but he has also received life-changing opportunities. He is proud of his service to his country and of the many skills he mastered while in the military.

In looking back over his life and his military service, Harris has developed a succinct philosophy. "Live life, don't endure it," he advises.

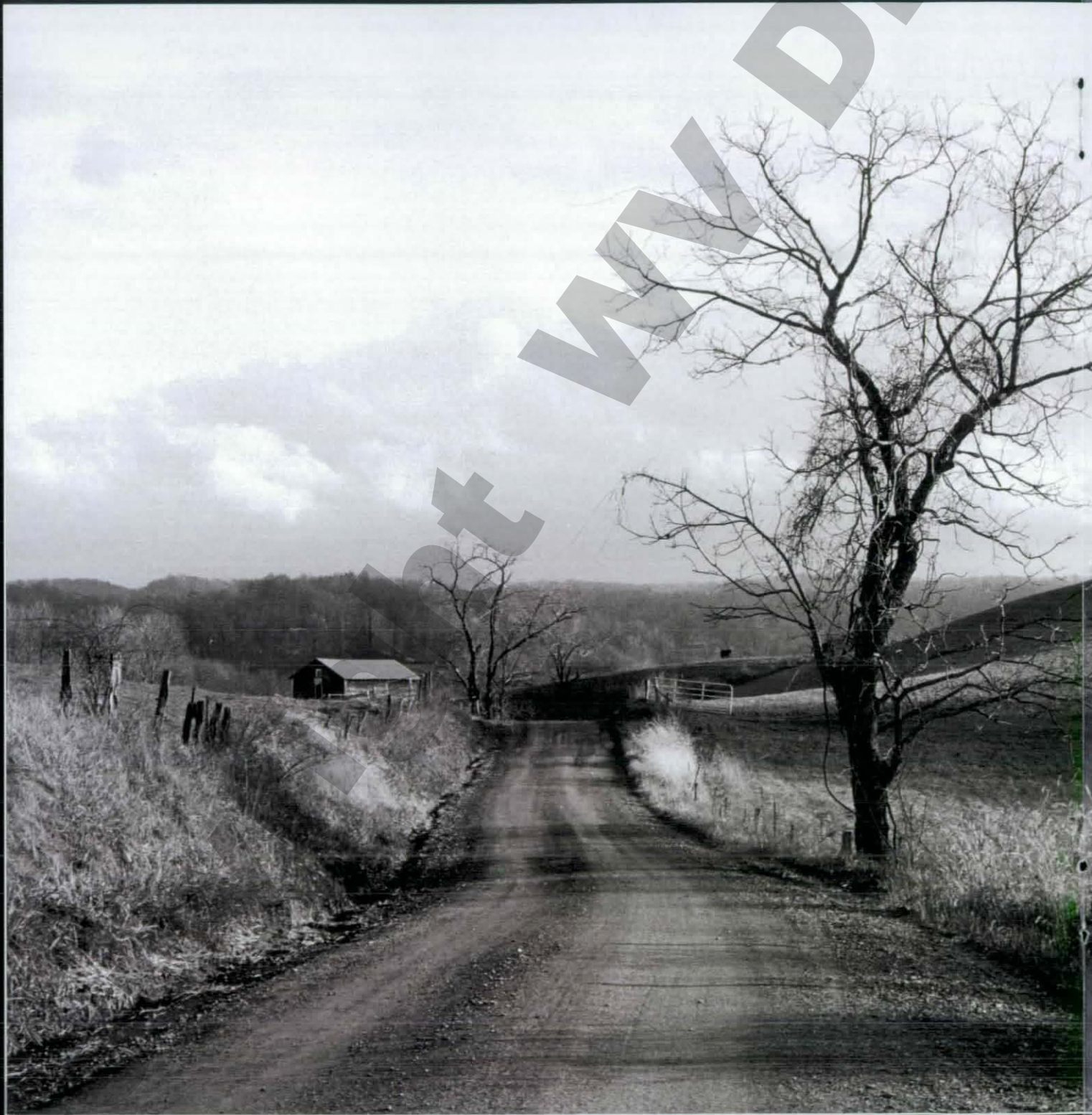
A native of West Virginia, David Kisamore grew up hunting, hiking, and fishing in the woods around his house. He has degrees in Christian ministries and biblical studies and theology, and is a trained minister. He now lives with his wife and three children in Morgantown.

The West Virginia Veterans History Project

West Virginia Remembers

Approximately 202,000 veterans reside in West Virginia, giving the state the highest number of veterans per capita in the nation. The West Virginia Veterans History Project is a grassroots campaign to collect the stories of state veterans for inclusion in the national Veterans History Project, sponsored by the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress. The project aims to preserve the histories of American veterans and civilians who were involved in World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars. War veterans and their families, veteran groups, community groups, students, and individuals are encouraged to record audio of and/or video veterans discussing their terms of service for inclusion in the project.

West Virginia University and the West Virginia Veterans History Project occasionally hold workshops and classes around the state to educate the public about collecting veterans' oral histories. For more information about classes and the West Virginia Veterans History Project, visit the Web site: www.veteranshistory.wvu.edu. If you wish to record a veteran for the project, you may also request Field Kits and Memoir Packets from the Library of Congress by going to the "Contact Us" page of www.veteranshistory.wvu.edu, clicking on the link "Requesting an Information Packet," and then selecting either "Request a Field Kit Packet" or "Request a Memoir Packet."



By Betty Rivard
bettyrivard@yahoo.com



▲ Still life, Clay County

◀ Ridgetop Farm, Nicholas County

(Next page) Hay fields, Clay County





Niagara Leaders of 1906 "Assail the Ears of America"

By Marsha Wassel

Harpers Ferry
Arnout Hyde Jr.



“We talked some
of the plainest
English that had
been given voice
to by black men
in America.”

— Dr. W. E. B. DuBois

“We talked some of the plainest English that had been given voice to by black men in America.” That is how African American civil rights leader Dr. W. E. B. DuBois described what happened at the second meeting of the Niagara Movement, held August 15-19, 1906, in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. A historic gathering of African American men and women, the meeting was monumentally important to this short-lived but pivotal organization, considered to be the cornerstone of the modern civil rights era.

In the early part of the twentieth century, full civil rights for African Americans remained an elusive dream. In 1896, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a separate but equal doctrine. At the same time, Booker T. Washington's accommodation policies, as set forth in his famed “Atlanta Compromise” speech of 1895, also threatened hope for true equality under the law.

In 1905, DuBois, a Harvard-educated teacher, sociologist, writer, and reformer, drafted a “call” for “organized determination and aggressive action on the part of men who believe in Negro freedom and growth.” A founder of the Niagara Movement, he helped organize the group's first meeting, in July of that year, at the Erie Beach Hotel in Ft. Erie, Ontario, Canada. The group had been forced to move its meeting to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls when it was refused accommodations in Buffalo, New York. The organization took its name from the area where it first met.

DuBois and J. R. Clifford, a West Virginia civil rights attorney and Martinsburg newspaper editor (see page 24), selected Harpers Ferry as the location for the second meeting because of its association with famed abolitionist John Brown, who led a raid there on the United States Armory and Arsenal in 1859 in an attempt to free slaves. The meeting was promoted as the “100th anniversary of John Brown's birth and the 50th jubilee of the battle of Ossawatimie.” (Brown was actually born in 1800, making 1906 the 106th anniversary of his birth.)

Yet Harpers Ferry's connection to Brown was

(Inset) J. R. Clifford (left) and W. E. B. DuBois at the Niagara Conference
Courtesy of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



4 Delegates to the 1906 Niagara Movement Conference pose in front of Anthony Hall on the Storer College campus in Harpers Ferry, August 17, 1906.

Courtesy of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Women at the 1906 Niagara Movement Conference: (seated) Gertrude Wright Morgan, (left to right) O. M. Waller, H. F. M. Murray, Mollie Lewis Kelan, Ida D. Bailey, Sadie Shorter, and Charlotte Hershaw. Harpers Ferry, August 17, 1906. Courtesy of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

not its only strong tie to African American history. The second meeting of the Niagara Movement was held on the campus of Storer College, opened in 1867 by Freewill Baptists as a mission school to educate former slaves. For 25 years Storer was the only school in West Virginia that offered African Americans an education beyond the primary level. In the ensuing years, the school expanded in acreage, curriculum, and enrollment. Now a part of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, in 1906, it provided the backdrop for the historic Niagara Movement conference, the first public gathering of its kind on American soil.

Convening on August 15, the Niagrites, as they called themselves, undoubtedly carried strong hopes that their voices would be heard and action would result. Protesting Booker T. Washington's theory of accommodation, they

sought

total equality for their race.

Women attending the gathering were granted full and equal membership in the movement.

Speeches, meetings, and special addresses filled the week at Storer College. One highlight of the week was John Brown's Day, held August 17. It began with a sunrise pilgrimage to the Murphy Farm, the site of John Brown's fort. A light rain fell as the Niagrites, numbering 100 strong, walked the two miles to the farm. As they

neared the small brick building, Owen Waller, a physician from Brooklyn, New York, bent down and respectfully removed his shoes and socks. Others followed his example before treading on this hallowed ground. Following prayers and stirring remarks by Richard T. Greener, former dean of the Howard University Law School, the assemblage marched single-file around the fort singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "John Brown's Body." This inspirational morning was followed by an uplifting afternoon, as members heard speeches by Henrietta Leary Evans, whose brother and nephew fought with Brown at Harpers Ferry; Lewis Douglass, son of Frederick Douglass, a former slave and an eloquent spokesperson for racial equality and the abolition of slavery; W. E. B. DuBois; and Reverdy C. Ransom, pastor of the Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, whose address was described by many as a masterpiece.

The conference concluded with an "Address to the Country." Penned by DuBois, this five-point resolution stated clearly the Niagrites demands:

1. *We want full manhood suffrage, and we want it now, henceforth and forever.*
2. *We want discrimination in public accommodation to cease. Separation ... is un-American, undemocratic, and silly.*
3. *We claim the right of freemen to walk, talk, and be with them who wish to be with us.*
4. *We want the laws enforced ... against white as well as black.*
5. *We want our children educated ... either the U.S. will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the U.S.*

The address also stated the following:

We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American—political, civil, and social; and until we get these rights, we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone, but for all true Americans.

Amid thunderous applause, the Harpers Ferry conference drew to a close. Years later, DuBois referred to the

meeting as "one of the greatest meetings that American Negroes ever held."

The Niagara Movement continued until 1911. At that time, DuBois wrote to his colleagues advising them to join the new National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Niagara Movement thus ceased to exist, but the principles and ideals that it



Ilene Evans and Joseph Bundy portray schoolteacher Carrie Williams and attorney J. R. Clifford J. R. Clifford and the *Carrie Williams Case*, a historical reenactment program written by West Virginia Supreme Court attorney Tom Rodd. Photo by Steven Wayne Rotsch

nurtured continued to gain momentum into the twenty-first century as part of the NAACP. 🍌

References used in writing this article include W. E. B. DuBois: *Biography of a Race 1868-1919* by David Levering Lewis (New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1993) and *Allies for Freedom* by Benjamin Quarles (New York: Oxford University Press, 1974).

Marsha Wassel is the public information officer and interpretive specialist at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

J. R. CLIFFORD: A WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL RIGHTS HERO

Courtesy of the Clifford-Niagara Project

John Robert “J. R.” Clifford (1849-1933) was West Virginia’s first African American lawyer and an early hero of the state’s civil rights movement. He was born on a farm near Moorefield, West Virginia, to free Black parents. At age 15, he joined the Union Army and fought in the Civil War. After the war, he attended Storer College in Harpers Ferry. He later became a school principal in Martinsburg, West Virginia, where he started the national African American newspaper the *Pioneer Press*. Clifford “read law” in a local attorney’s office and, in 1887, was admitted to practice before the West Virginia Court of Appeals.

In 1892, Clifford represented Mrs. Carrie Williams in the landmark West Virginia civil rights case *Williams v. Board of Education* (W. Va. 1898). Williams, who taught in the “colored,” one-room school in the small Tucker County town of Coketon, was denied full payment for eight months of teaching the African American students of this coal mining community. The school for Black children was only to be open for five months instead of the eight months provided to White students, according to the local school board.

Williams taught the full eight months, and she demanded her full pay on the principle that African American students were entitled to an equal education. Clifford took Williams’s case, tried it in the Tucker County Courthouse, and won. The school board appealed to the West Virginia State Supreme Court, where Clifford won again in 1898.

The Williams case established the right of all African American schoolchildren in West Virginia to school terms that are of equal length to those enjoyed by White children. It also established the right of African American schoolteachers in West Virginia to equal pay. The case was a first in American jurisprudence and played an important role in establishing West Virginia as a state where African Americans could exercise rights and opportunities (education, voting, jury service) that translated into political and economic power.

J. R. Clifford was a leading organizer and participant in the 1906 meeting of the Niagara Movement in Harpers Ferry. He was an active leader in African American efforts for justice until his death in 1933. 🍀



J. R. Clifford

THE CLIFFORD-NIAGARA PROJECT

The Clifford-Niagara Project was founded in 2005 by the Mountain State Bar, West Virginia’s African American lawyers association, and Friends of Blackwater, which sponsors programs on ethnic history in the Blackwater Canyon region. The project’s mission is to increase public awareness about the struggles and accomplishments of West Virginians in opposing and overcoming racism and discrimination, and to build a wider interest by state residents and visitors alike in West Virginia’s civil rights history.

On Thursday, August 17, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., as part of the Niagara Movement Centennial, the Clifford-Niagara Project will present *J. R. Clifford and the Carrie Williams Case*, a historical reenactment program based on J. R. Clifford’s famous case. The program will take place in the historic Curtis Freewill Baptist Church at Storer College in Harpers Ferry. For more information about the many statewide programs of the Clifford-Niagara Project, visit the Web site: www.clifford-niagara.org.

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AT HARPERS FERRY

In August 2006, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, in conjunction with the Jefferson County, West Virginia, Chapter of the NAACP and the Harpers Ferry Historical Association, will host a centennial commemoration of the second meeting of the Niagara Movement. Three days of events are planned in celebration of the anniversary of this historic event.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 18, 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

- ✦ Opening of Public Commemoration
- ✦ Catered Reception with music by Howard Burns
- ✦ Gospel Prelude: Music by the Shiloh Gospel Singers, Washington, DC
- ✦ Opening Ceremony and Address (TBA)
- ✦ Dramatic Presentation: *Women of Niagara* by Donzaleigh Abernathy, actress, author, activist, and daughter of late civil rights leader Rev. Ralph David Abernathy
- ✦ African American Music in the Age of Niagara: Dr. Michael White's New Orleans Jazz Ensemble

Saturday, August 19, 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM

- ✦ Descendants Reception
- ✦ Ongoing throughout the day:
 - U.S. Postal Service Cancellation Kiosk
 - Clifford Youth Discovery Tent
 - Harpers Ferry Historical Association Sales Tent
 - Food Court
 - Great Blacks in Wax Exhibit
 - DuBois Documentary
 - Niagara Exhibit
- ✦ Welcome and Opening Musical Selections
- ✦ Keynote Address by Dr. David Levering Lewis, New York University professor of history and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner
- ✦ Cornerstone Program: "A Battle for All Americans" Children's program highlighting the significance of the Niagara Movement
- ✦ Reverdy C. Ransom and the Spirit of John Brown, with actor, historian, and author Fred Morsell as Reverdy C. Ransom
- ✦ Gospel Concert: The Dixie Hummingbirds
- ✦ Panel Discussion: "The Problem of the Twentieth

Century Will Be the Problem of the Color Line: Breaking Barriers in America"

- ✦ Book Signing and Reception featuring authors Donzaleigh Abernathy, Dr. Dorothy Height, Monte Irvin, Dr. David Levering Lewis, Fred Morsell, and others
- ✦ Breaking Barriers in America: Music by The World Famous Count Basie Orchestra, directed by William H. Hughes and featuring the debut of the Niagara Movement Centennial Score, written and conducted by Dr. Frank Foster
- ✦ Scotty Barnhart Quartet, featuring guest musicians

Sunday, August 20, 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- ✦ Pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort
- ✦ Ongoing throughout the day:
 - Clifford Youth Discovery Tent
 - Harpers Ferry Historical Association Sales Tent
 - Food Court
 - Great Blacks in Wax Exhibit
 - DuBois Documentary
 - Niagara Exhibit
- ✦ Reception
- ✦ Memorial Service
- ✦ Odetta: Songs of Freedom and Inspiration
- ✦ Reflections of W. E. B. DuBois: Dr. David Levering Lewis and Dr. DuBois Williams, granddaughter of W. E. B. DuBois and professor of psychology at Xavier University in New Orleans. Moderated by Dr. Lawrence Hogan, professor of history at Union County College, Cranford, New Jersey
- ✦ Music by John Hicks
- ✦ Closing Ceremony: Presentation of Niagara Centennial Plaque, followed by photograph

Please Note: Schedule is subject to change. For updated information, visit www.nps.gov/hafe/niagara/index.htm.

Quinet's Court

A Taste of New Martinsville

Restaurant

In a commercial that used to play on the local New Martinsville radio station, an announcer asked a group of the town's elders, "To what do you attribute your longevity?"

In unison, the group responded, "We eat at Quinet's Court Restaurant!"

By Cody Corliss Photographs by Steve Shaluta

Without question, if there's an establishment that reflects the friendly and tenacious spirit of this town in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle, it's Quinet's Court Restaurant. Located across from the county court house in the heart of the town's business district, the eatery has stood guard on Main Street for more than 100 years. From celebrities like Gloria Swanson and Jack Dempsey to local residents and politicians on the campaign trail, the Court Restaurant is a must-stop for just about everyone traveling through town. The place bustles with activity all day long. Business leaders eat power breakfasts, retirees meet for lunch, and workers from the local plants catch a meal following a shift.

The affable owner, Jim Quinet, moves through the dining room greeting familiar patrons and new visitors alike. The restaurant has been in his family since the 1930s, and he has operated it since 1976.

On the day of my visit, Quinet and his staff were preparing an evening dinner for 800 people. The dinner wasn't the typical catering assignment—the kind for which the Court Restaurant has become locally renowned. Instead, it was a meal donated by the restaurant to Open Door Ministries, a local initiative to feed the hungry in the region. The meal is just one indication of the special relationship the restaurant has with the town.

Indeed, many citizens have a longstanding fondness for the Court Restaurant. "It's really great having a relationship with customers who have been coming here for 60 years," Quinet says. "There are people who have been eating here all their lives. I love to listen to their stories."

Of course, much has changed in the nearly 70 years that the restaurant has been in the Quinet family. What started as a small café has expanded into a sprawling restaurant with five dining rooms. "We've doubled in size since I've been here," notes Shana Loy, a 15-year Court Restaurant employee.

Yet, as the restaurant has grown, its commitment to good food has remained strong. "Everything is

made from scratch. Nothing is factory prepared," explains Quinet. "We have six bakers who bake all our bread. We make all our own soups and desserts, as well as the 75 items on our buffet."

Though the food is prepared in-house, Quinet notes that menu items come from all over the world. "My father used to serve catfish caught from the Ohio River and vegetables and meat delivered from farmers in Wetzel County," he says. Today, the menu includes not only local fare but also items like jumbo shrimp and lobster. Still, the trademark of the restaurant



Good Food!
Friendly Service!
For Over 100 Years!



remains its home-style cooking at an affordable price.

In addition to the down-home goodness of the food, there are other features that make dining at the Court Restaurant a pleasurable and unique experience. For example, most of the menu items are named after local people. According to Quinet, the tradition dates from a time when the restaurant was smaller and orders were taken orally, not in writing.

"The wait staff would just yell the orders to the cooks in the kitchen," Quinet explains. "There were some regulars who would get special orders. The wait staff, after a while, instead of describing those special orders to the cooks, would just say the person's name, like 'Dr. Bridgeman' or 'Harry Lantz.' Other diners in the restaurant heard that and started to say, 'Give me a Dr. Bridgeman.' It just really caught on. As time went by, we started naming the meals after the people who ordered them."

The Court Restaurant also has an expansive array of photographs adorning its walls. According to Quinet, the practice of displaying photographs began when legendary boxer Jack Dempsey dined there. Dempsey left a large portrait of himself and the restaurant hung it to commemorate his visit.

Other diners saw the portrait and wanted their

pictures displayed too, Quinet explains. While there are pictures of famous actors, athletes, and politicians, most of the photos are of local people. Indeed, locals and celebrities mingle amiably on the walls at the Court Restaurant. Today, Quinet estimates that about 1,000 photographs hang throughout the restaurant. Another 5,000 are stored away and periodically rotated among the mix.

The restaurant also offers a treasure trove of images documenting the history of Wetzel County and its people. There is a 1960s-era photograph of a Magnolia High basketball player making a lay-up. Today, that player is a noted attorney and businessman. There is also a more recent image of a cheerleader from another area high school who now cheers for WVU. In addition, there are photographs of the many state championship high school athletic teams from the area. Other photographs depict the changing face of downtown New Martinsville and commemorate many of the area's floods.

Each of the patrons I chatted with had a favorite among the multitude of photos. Lucille Blum, a retired teacher, pointed out a photograph of her son with a group of retired restaurant goers, noting that the lunch group was well known for playing practical



jokes on one another. Another diner showed me a photograph of his father, and another pointed to an old scene from downtown New Martinsville, complete with its trolley.

According to Quinet, the photographs that attract the most interest are the ones documenting New Martinsville's past. For example, there's the infamous Shooting on Burnt Corner. The 1901 gunfight happened on Main Street and featured two of New Martinsville's most prominent citizens. According to town lore, the town dentist and the town druggist were arguing following an extramarital affair between the druggist and the dentist's wife.

A framed letter written by a father to his son describes the scene: "[There was] a shoot out on the Main Street as passengers departed the evening local passenger train arriving from Wheeling. The end result was the deaths of both the druggist and the dentist. The dentist's wife was also shot in the melee, but survived."

"Many people also really enjoy the images of the New Martinsville floods through the years," Quinet says. Flooding is an ongoing challenge in New Martinsville, one from which the Court Restaurant has not been spared. The establishment sits on Main

Street's lowest point. During flooding in September 2004, "we had to move 400 chairs, 100 tables, and 12 coolers," Quinet recalls. The load was enough to fill two tractor trailers.

But, as is characteristic of many small towns, the townspeople rallied together to help. Over 100 volunteers moved the contents of the restaurant to higher ground. In a couple of days it was back in business, serving up its renowned, traditional fare.

Quinet is quick to give credit for the restaurant's enduring success to others. "I give credit to the Lord and the great help he's given me—my employees. Many of them have been here over 20 years," he says.

Quinet, who took over the restaurant from his father, will soon retire from the day-to-day operations and pass the reins to another family member. His son, Matthew, who is currently a senior at Alderson-Broaddus College, will take over the business. Thus, yet another generation of celebrities, politicians, and just plain citizens will mingle and enjoy a meal among friends at Quinet's Court. 🍴

Cody Corliss, a native of Wetzel County, recently completed a M. A. in history at the Universiteit Leiden in the Netherlands as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

JULY EVENTS STATEWIDE

July 1
Tour de Coal—Float the Coal River
 Saint Albans
 (304) 727-0660

July 1 – 2
Sylvester Dogpatch Reunion
 Sylvester
 (304) 854-0330

July 1 – 4
Point Pleasant Sternwheel Regatta & River Festival
 Point Pleasant
 (304) 675-6788

July 1 – 4
Mountain State Art & Craft Fair
 Ripley
 (304) 372-8159

July 1 – 4
Snowshoe Mountain Independence Weekend Celebration
 Snowshoe
 (877) 441-4386

July 1 – 4
55th New River Gorge Heritage Festival
 Fayetteville
 (888) 574-1500

July 1 – 4
Firemen's Annual Independence Day Celebration
 Weston
 (304) 269-2349

July 4
Fairview Old-Fashioned July 4th Celebration
 Fairview
 (304) 449-1458

July 4
Barboursville 4th of July Celebration
 Barboursville
 (304) 736-8994

July 4
Ellenboro Glass Festival
 Ellenboro
 (304) 869-3699

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Fiddles & Vittles Train
 Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
 Cass
 (304) 456-4300

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Summer Outdoor Amphitheater Series
 Pipestem Resort State Park
 Pipestem
 (304) 466-1800

July 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, 22, 25, 28, 30
Hatfields and McCoys
 Grandview Cliffside Amphitheatre
 Beckley
 (800) 666-9142

July 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 20, 23, 27
Honey in the Rock
 Grandview Cliffside Amphitheatre
 Beckley
 (800) 666-9142

July 3
Independence Day Weekend
 Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park
 Parkersburg
 (304) 420-4800

July 4
Ring of the Bells
 Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park
 Parkersburg
 (304) 420-4800

July 4
Free Concert: Morgantown Municipal Band
 Prickett's Fort State Park
 Fairmont
 (304) 363-3030

July 4
Independence Day Celebration
 Cacapon Resort State Park
 Berkeley Springs
 (304) 258-1022

July 5 – 8
Golf Academy
 Cacapon Resort State Park
 Berkeley Springs
 (304) 258-1022

July 5 – 9
Pocahontas County Pioneer Days
 Marlinton
 (800) 336-7009

July 6 – 8
Bridgeport Benedum Festival
 Bridgeport
 (304) 842-8240

July 7, 14, 21
Cultural Center—On the Lawn Brown Bag Concerts
 Charleston
 (304) 558-0162

July 7 – 9
John Henry Days
 Talcott
 (304) 466-1729

July 8
Rattlesnake 50K Run
 Kanawha State Forest Shelter 9
 Charleston
 (304) 344-8342

July 8
Midsummer Walk between the Parks: Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls
 Davis
 (800) 622-4121

July 8 – 9
Arthurdale New Deal Festival
 Arthurdale
 (304) 864-3959

July 8 – 9
A Soldier's City: Harpers Ferry 1864
 Harpers Ferry
 (304) 535-6298

July 8 – 15
Putnam County Fair
 Eleanor
 (304) 586-3632

July 9
Moundsville Penitentiary Ghost Hunts
 Moundsville
 (304) 845-6200

July 10 – 15
Nicholas County Fair
 Summersville
 (304) 872-1454

July 10 – 15
Lincoln District Fair
 Farmington (Plum Run)
 (304) 825-6525

July 11
Moonlight Fire Train—
Durbin & Greenbrier
Valley Railroad
Durbin
(877) 686-7245

July 11 – 15
Battelle District Fair
Wadestown
(304) 662-6322

July 12 – 16
Belington Community Fair
Belington
(304) 457-2655

July 12 – 16
Pre-1840s Rendezvous:
Christmas at the
Campground
Tomlinson Run State Park
New Manchester
(304) 564-3651

July 13 – 16
Jamboree in the Hills
Wheeling
800-624-5456

July 14-15, 18-22
Always Patsy Cline
Chief Logan State Park
Logan
(304) 752-0153

July 14-16, 21-23
Town & Gown Theatre
Production
Prickett's Fort State Park
Fairmont
(304) 363-3030

July 14 – 16
International Sports
Jamboree
North Bend State Park
Cairo
(304) 643-2931

July 14 – 16
Battle of Laurel Hill
Reenactment
Belington
(304) 823-3327

July 14 – 16
Upshur County Fair
Buckhannon
(304) 924-5259

July 14 – 16
Battle of Rich Mountain—
Civil War Reenactment
Beverly
(304) 637-7434

July 15, 22, 29
Concerts in the Park
Berkeley Springs State Park
Berkeley Springs
(304) 258-2300

July 15
22nd Annual Bear Hole
10K Road Race
Twin Falls Resort State Park
Mullens
(304) 294-4000

July 18, 21, 26, 29
Beauty and the Beast
Grandview Cliffside
Amphitheatre
Beckley
(800) 666-9142

July 19 – 22
Durbin Days
Durbin
(800) 336-7009

July 21
Brunch with Margaret
Blennerhassett
Blennerhassett Island
Historical State Park
Parkersburg
(304) 420-4800

July 21 – 23
Upper Ohio Valley Italian
Heritage Festival
Wheeling
(304) 233-1090

July 21 – 23
Brooks Hill
Community Fair
Buckhannon
(304) 472-0535

July 22
Beverly Heritage Days
Beverly
(304) 637-7424

July 22
WV Irish Road Bowling
Singles Championship
Ireland
(304) 269-7328

July 22
Star Party—National Radio
Astronomy Observatory
Green Bank
(304) 456-2150

July 22
Becoming an Outdoors
Woman (BOW)
Kanawha State Forest
Charleston
(304) 558-2771

July 23 – 30
Cowen Historical Railroad
Festival
Cowen
(304) 226-5902

July 28
Murder Mystery Train
Cass Scenic Railroad
State Park
Cass
(304) 456-4300

July 29
3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk
Cacapon Resort State Park
Berkeley Springs
(304) 258-1022

July 29 – August 5
Boone County Fair
Danville
(304) 369-2338

July 31 – August 5
Magnolia Fair
Matewan
(304) 426-6621

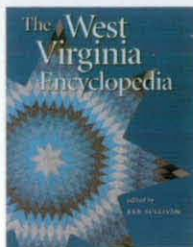
July 31 – August 6
WV State Water Festival
Hinton
(304) 466-5332

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

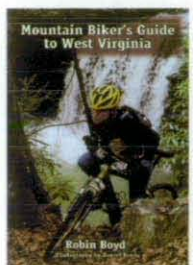
Times and events are subject to change. To ensure you have a wonderful experience, please call ahead before attending an event.

Background photo: Betty Rivard

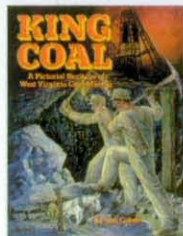
WEST VIRGINIA BOOKSHELF



The West Virginia Encyclopedia
By The West Virginia Humanities Council
\$44.95, 8.5 x 11, 944 pages, Hardcover
Working under the slogan "All there is to know about West Virginia," the editors of *The West Virginia Encyclopedia* packed 2,200 articles into the pages of this big book. These articles are the work of nearly 600 writers, many of whom are experts in the history and culture of the Mountain State. Readers will find biographies of hundreds of West Virginians, including every governor; dozens of articles on West Virginia history, from Native American times to the present; histories of every county and all major towns and cities; articles on flora and fauna, folklore and folk arts; and more than 300 illustrations, maps, and tables.



Mountain Biker's Guide to West Virginia
By Robin Boyd
\$8.95, 5.5 x 8.5, 144 pages, Paperback
Written by an experienced racer, writer, mom, and biking advocate, *Mountain Biker's Guide to West Virginia* is the book every mountain biker has been waiting for. Author Robin Boyd takes her riding and her writing seriously, covering the state's awesome trails and fabulous scenery. Featuring rides from all over the state, this book gives concise directions, mileage, elevation, and maps, as well as recommendations for restaurants, lodging, and great scenery. Go along for the ride and enjoy exploring the Mountain State.



King Coal: A Pictorial Heritage of West Virginia Coal Mining
By Stan Cohen
\$12.95, 8.5 x 11, 146 pages, Paperback
King Coal is a well-illustrated overview of coal mining in the state. This book covers the basics of mining methods and operations, geology, life in a coal town, the unrest in the coalfields, and more. *King Coal* describes the living conditions of the miners and some of the state's worst mining disasters. You'll meet some of the more colorful characters of the industry, including Albert "Sid" Hatfield and Mary Harris "Mother" Jones.



John Brown, "The Thundering Voice of Jehovah": A Pictorial Heritage
By Stan Cohen
Sale \$5.95, reg. \$14.95, 8 x 11, 196 pages, Paperback
This book covers the life of American hero John Brown. His famous raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859 and tragic death by hanging were among the incidents that fueled the start of the Civil War. Revered by abolitionists of his time for his convictions and work to end slavery, he remains today a noble symbol of idealism and self-sacrifice. The book contains numerous photographs, drawings, and newspaper articles that help tell the tale of Brown's life. The book features the most definitive collection of photographs related to Brown's life published to date.

For *Wonderful West Virginia* subscriptions,
please call 1-800-CALL-WVA
or visit our Web site: www.wonderfulwv.com.

Quantity	Title	Price	Amount
_____	<i>WV Encyclopedia</i>	\$44.95	_____
_____	<i>Mountain Biker's Guide to WV</i>	\$ 8.95	_____
_____	<i>King Coal</i>	\$12.95	_____
_____	<i>John Brown</i> SALE!	\$ 5.95	_____
		Subtotal	_____
		West Virginia residents add 6% sales tax	_____
		Shipping (\$3.50 for 1st book, .50 for each additional book)	_____
		Total	_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Visa/MC #: _____
Exp. date _____
Signature: _____

Mail to: West Virginia Book Company
1125 Central Ave.
Charleston, WV 25302
(888) 982-7472 or (304) 342-1848
e-mail: wvbooks@verizon.net

Bulltown Falls in Braxton County
Phil Berry



The Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad

Where Eagles Fly!

Fireworks Special, July 1, 2006, 6:30pm

Excursions May through November

Special Events

Monthly All Day Specials



Romney, West Virginia
(304) 424-0736
www.potomaceagle.info

